Saikei International

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General News

It is worth noting that we will be attending the Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club Show on the 22nd of June 2013, this has now become an annual event. Our President will be doing a demonstration of Saikei and he reliably informs me that this is going to be something a bit special. There will also be a workshop area where individuals can get help on Bonsai and Saikei related issues.

Board Meeting

We are seeking to firm up a meeting of the board in March. So if you have anything you would like to raise please contact David Penny david.penny@saikei.co.uk

Currently the agenda is as follows:

1. Minutes of last meeting.
2. Progress of actions from last meeting.
3. Membership report.
4. Financial report.
5. Membership development and fees.
    - International membership development
    - Local representative responsibilities
    - Membership benefits
    - Membership fees
6. Events and shows.
7. Action plan for 2013-15
8. AOB

Saikei Weekend

The board has talked for some time about the possibility of running a Saikei event in the United Kingdom for any enthusiast who wishes to attend. The size of venue and the length of the event will depend on those individuals who would like to attend. Please contact a member of the board if you would like to partake of this event, the costs have yet to be defined but in order to ensure that everybody has an equal opportunity to be part of this event we will be looking to keep in the cost to a bare minimum.

Learning Opportunities

There will be a series of courses being run in the uk and abroad during 2013/14 so please contact learning@saikei.co.uk if you are interested in attending.

Website

Please keep looking at the website as new content is being added regularly.

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SHOWS

We have been invited to display two shows this year and we have included the details. If you are aware of any shows concerning Bonsai and Saikei we will be delighted to hear about these and we will of course put them in the magazine so that all members are aware. In order to enter an event we only need to know the name of the event, where it will take place, dates and times and contact for further information.

Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club Annual Show 2013

Stone Cross Hall, Stone Cross, Eastbourne.
22nd of June 2013
Bonsai, Saikei, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc…

Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery 2013 Show

Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Sudbury, CO10 5JH
01787 210 501
Date to be Advised
Bonsai, Saikei, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc…

Your Event Name Here

Where
When
Description

Your Event Name Here

Where
When
Description

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YOUR LETTERS

I want to thank you for all the hard work you put into the magazine as a newbie to Saikei I have found that the information that it provides helps no end with my compositions. I wondered if it would be possible to get some more inspirational photos to help me improve my Saikei.

I also want to make a plea to all those members outside the UK with a bit of experience in the field of Saikei to write some articles or send in pictures of their Saikei, so we can see the variation from different countries. I found the pictures from one of the members in Australia very interesting as he used some different sorts of tree and rock.

I hope one day to be able to visit your president or even see him out here if he demonstrates, here's hoping.

John (USA)

Dear John,

Thank you for your email and your kind words. As you will appreciate we can only ask people to contribute to the magazine and so hopefully your email will inspire some individuals to write or send in some photos of their Saikei.

I am glad the magazine is helping in your studies.

Regards

Brian - Editor

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BACK TO BASICS

CHINESE ELM

By RM

Anyone who is new to growing Saikei will not go far wrong with a Chinese elm. Its growth pattern is predictable and it is easy to prune and shape as a Saikei. The broom style is popular but it can also be shaped into most Saikei styles. So it's an ideal species on which to practise Saikei techniques.

It's a versatile species and is suitable for both indoor and outdoor growth. When grown outdoors Chinese elm (Ulmus parvifolia) is deciduous but if grown indoors it will remain more or less evergreen.

The appearance of the bark is variable. Some varieties have smooth bark whilst others have rough, corky bark with deep fissures. Care needs to be exercised when wiring as the bark can be easily damaged.

The varieties with smooth bark are generally not as hardy as those with rough bark and they should be acclimatised slowly to cold conditions. So if they are to be kept outdoors during the winter they should be placed outside in the autumn to allow them to harden up.

The toothed leaves are small and dark green in colour. When pinched, a new shoot grows from the base of nearly every leaf and this results in a dense herringbone pattern of growth.

Chinese elm needs to be kept moist throughout the year. At certain times e.g. in the spring, during high temperatures or when the sun is strong, the tree will require more water.

For outdoor Saikei the feeding regime will consist of high nitrogen during the spring and then balanced feed until late summer. Indoor Saikei should be given balanced feed on a weekly basis during the spring and summer and monthly during the winter, apart from when they are out of leaf.

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The roots of Chinese elm grow vigorously and unless they are pruned regularly the tree will not thrive.

Chinese elm can be kept in full sun but should be given partial shade in very hot conditions. Some shade is required when it is kept indoors. In winter protect from harsh winds and prolonged periods of rainfall.

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JUNIPERS – AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW

There are many different varieties including Japanese Garden Junipers, Green Mound, Sargent's, Needle, Shimpaku, and Chinese Junipers, just to name a few. Junipers are also one of the easiest forms of Saikei to take care of. Juniper Saikei grow both indoors as well as outdoors, however, they should be kept in a cooler environment during the winter months in order to experience a winter rest period. Following a few simple guidelines allows Juniper Saikei to be grown without difficulty.

WATERING

Junipers, as with most Saikei, like to dry out between watering's. Feel the soil every day. If there is a rock in the planting lift it up and feel under it, otherwise, just stick your finger about a half of an inch to an inch into the soil. If the soil feels dry, water your Saikei. Never let your Saikei go totally dry for extended periods!!! The best way to water your Saikei (if it is a small composition) is to soak it in a sink or container of water up to the trunks for about 5 to 10 minutes. Then allow it to drain. If top watering your Saikei, water, wait a few minutes, and water again. Repeat this several times to insure that your Saikei has received a thorough watering. Eventually you will be able to determine a watering schedule that meets your climate conditions.

LIGHT

Filtered or shaded sunlight is best for your Juniper Saikei. Allow your Juniper Saikei to get low intensity morning sunlight when possible and avoid the direct afternoon sunlight.

FEEDING

Fertilize your Juniper Saikei once every two weeks during the growing season, spring until fall. We recommend using an organic liquid fertilizer such as a fish emulsion or an organic seaweed fertilizer. Chemical fertilizers

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may be used but should be diluted to approximately one half strength so that valuable roots are not damaged. Organic pellets such as rice cakes may also be used along with regular fertilizers.

HUMIDITY

Humidity around your Juniper Saikei may be maintained by the use of a humidity tray or plate filled with stones and water. Your Saikei can be placed on top of the stones in the tray. The tray or plate will also offer protection from the draining water of your freshly watered Saikei. Misting once a day will also help…but remember, misting is not a replacement for watering.

REPOTTING

Junipers should be repotted about every two years when young (less than five or six years old) and every three to five years thereafter. Junipers may be repotted throughout most of the year, although, the best times for repotting are in the spring and fall. After repotting, water thoroughly and keep the plant in a shady location for several weeks so that new roots may grow.

WINTER CARE

To maintain good health, Juniper Saikei should be kept in a cool (under 60 degrees F) during the winter months so that they can experience a dormancy or rest period. During this period your Saikei should be protected from drying winds and extreme cold conditions. This can be achieved by utilizing cold frames, window wells, enclosed unheated rooms, or mulch beds.

Tom Yamamoto Saikei using Junipers

MOSS

Moss is certainly not essential to growing Saikei, but when moss is added to a Saikei it both enhances its beauty and improves moisture retention within the Saikei pot. If your Saikei has moss growing in it you can help to keep it alive by misting it regularly. If the moss dies, you may replace it with some of your own moss from your backyard.

ENDNOTE

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These instructions, when followed properly, will help keep your Saikei healthy and beautiful. There are many more publications available that offer more in depth information about your Saikei and we encourage you to read some of them.

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VIEWS FROM A LENS—GALLERY

1997 Brighton Show

Superb Australian Saikei

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David Penny in deep concentration during a demonstration

Finished Riverside Saikei

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Downsview Bonsai	01323 485656	126 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SJ	info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk	www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk
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CLUBS

Name	Telephone	Address	Day of Meeting	Website
Dai Ichi Bonsai Group (Essex)	01277 625 298	Shenfield Village Hall	1st Monday of each month call	
Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club (Sussex)	01323 731 369	Hellingly Village Hall	2nd Monday of the Month	www.eandwbonsaiclub.co.uk
Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)	01489 789 962 or 07795 187 632		2nd Monday of the Month	

If you would like to have your local club details added to this list please contact the newsletter team by e-mail newsletter@Saikei.co.uk

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